Bids for Crude Exploration from Private Contractor

1773. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had invited bids for crude explorations from private contractors to participate in speculative surveys and explorations; and

(b) if so, what were the terms of bid, which responded to the call and to whom contracts had been awarded indentifying the areas of explorations allocated to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The bids are negotiable, after evaluation and the terms will be finalised only after negotiations.

Rise in import of Petroleum Products

1774. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH:
SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the volum of petroleum products' imports has been rising sharply. If so, the details for the last three years;

(b) what are the implications for this surge with details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the imports of petroleum products are much more costlier than crude; and

(d) if so, what efforts have the Government made during the last three years for creation of fresh refining capacity to overcome this problem with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) The import of Petroleum Products during the last three years was as under:

Quantity: MMT
Value: Rs./crores

Year	Quantity	Value
1990-91	8.7	4660
1991-92*	9.4	5218
1992-93*	11.3	6360

*Provisional

(b) While an increase in the import of petroleum products would entail increased outflow of foreign exchange, they will meet the nergy requirements of the growing economy.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Efforts are being Made to increase the refining capacity by taking up expansion of existing refineries and by allowing the setting up of new grass root refineries in the Public Sector, Joint Venture and Private Sector.

Expansion proposals of existing refineries are expected to provide an addidtional 7.8 MMTPA of capacity. Three new refineries of 6 MMTPA capacity each are planned in the joint sector with Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation as the public sector partners for implementation during 8/9 Plan in Eastern India, Central India and Western India.

In addition, Letters of Intent to private sector for setting up refineries have been issued as follows:

1. M/s. Reliance Petroleum Ltd. ..... 9 MMPTA
2. M/s. Ashok Leyland .... 6 MMPTA
3. M/s. Essar Investments Ltd. ..... 9 MMPTA
4. M/s. International Petroleum S.A. (BVI) ..... 5 MMPTA
   Expandable to 10 MMTPA
5. M/s. T. R. Datla (M/s. Black Gold Refineries) ..... 2.5 MMPTA

Besides these, three new grass root

refinery projects are currently being implemented, v.z.,

	Capacity
Mangalore Refinery & Petrochemicals	3 MMTPA
Panipat Refinery of IOC	6 ,,
Numaligarh Refinery, Assam	3 ,,

Allotment of Petrol/Diesel Outlets

1775. SHRI S.S. SUREJEWALA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present policy of allotment of Petrol/diesel, Kerosene and L.D.O. outlets etc.;

(b) what are the terms and conditions and actual procedure presently followed by State/Central oil Boards constituted for the allotment of above outlets;

(c) what is the discreation of the Minister/Deputy Minister in the allotment of outlets and the details of the outlets as mentioned above which were allotted during the last three years by the Ministers/Oil Boards;

(d) the name of outlets which have been providing services to the consumers;

(e) whether Government have reviewed this procedure;

(f) whether Government will follow a uniform policy for each citizen of the country; and

(g) whether Government have received complaints of irregularities committed by the Oil Board, if so, the details thereof alongwith the tenure of their members particularly of Haryana?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) As per existing policy petrol/diesel retail outlets and SKO/LDO dealership are awarded by the oil companies on the recommendations of the Oil Selection Boards who make selections through interviews of persons applying against advertisements and meeting the eligibility criteria for different categories in the following manner :—

SC/ST	....	25%
PH	....	7½%
Defence Personnel	....	7½
Freedom Fighter	....	5%
Open	....	55%

A few allotments of dealerships are also made by the Government on compassionate grounds in deserving cases keeping in view the circumstances of each case, including the recommendations of MPs and other VIPs. During the last 3 years, i.e. 1990-91 to 1992-93, Government had allotted 315 dealerships/distributorships under discretionary powers.

(d) All outlets are meant to serve consumers.

(e) and (f) The existing policy for allotment of dealerships through Oil Selection Boards has uniform application. There is no proposal to review the procedure at present.

(g) Members of Oil Selection Boards have been given a tenure of 2 years. Complaints, if any, are looked into.

Alleged Indulgence in MRTP by ONGC and Oil India Ltd.

1776. SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the two public sector oil units—ONGC and Oil India Ltd. are facing a Government probe for allegedly indulging the monopolistic and restrictive trade practices; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is also a fact that an Ahmedabad-based voluntary organisation—National Council for Civil Liberties (NCCL) is also examining charges of monopolistic and restrictive